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ADDRESS

THE DEMOCRAT

VALENTINE NEBR

AN UNENVIABLE LOT.

The Life of a Missionary in China Far from Pleasant.

The lot of the missionary in China, particularly the zealous minister of the gospel, who wanders away from the beaten paths and into new territory, is far from pleasant. It is a most dangerous proceeding, for in the territories of the recent massacres the minds of the ignorant Chinese have been poisoned by the reports circulating among the officials, and a portion of the population is decidedly opposed to the presence of the Christians.

All sorts of stories are told of the cruelties practiced by the missionaries and every little while this hatred, fanned to a flame, breaks out and several missionaries and their families are persecuted. Sometimes they escape with their lives and only their property is destroyed, but it not infrequently happens that there is considerable loss of life, as in the recent cases. Then there is a great hue and cry and the United States government and other powers are denounced for not sending a fleet of warships to the scene, regardless of the fact that the scene of the disturbances are always hundreds of miles inland, far from the coast and navigable rivers. To send a land force would only mean the addition of so many more victims to the already long list. For the United States to send a force of men to the locality where the last massacre occurred would be about as reasonable as it would have been for the King of Italy to have ordered a force to march from New York to Colorado, where there were a number of Italians killed by a mob a few months since.

The missionaries are themselves largely to blame for being in such an exposed position. The Chinese government has repeatedly warned them to work only in partially civilized regions where they can be properly protected. But the progressive missionary does not want his field of labor limited in the East, and the consequences are that many of them have gone into a territory peopled largely by savages, who, although they are under the rule of the Emperor of China, pay him but slight allegiance. These savages are continually breaking out into riotous proceedings and the life of the officials is made very wearisome, especially since it means that the victor is likely to be shorn of his raiment and also his head, should any missionaries be killed and the country from whence they came make a very great noise over the affair.

LONGEVITY THEIR INHERITANCE

Although Their Parents Both Died Young, of Consumption.

Seldom can a family be found with so remarkable a history for healthful longevity as the Wilkinson family, of Mount Holly, N. J. All the members are past three score and ten, yet not one of them has ever had a day's illness, although their father and mother died at an early age, both victims of consumption. The children have never shown any symptoms of the disease, and are hearty, with clear intellects and understanding. Some of them can read the print without the aid of glasses.

Their ages are as follows: Mrs. Martha Groom, 91 years; Priscilla Watkinson, 88 years; Margaret F. Lamb, 84 years; Ann Curtis, 83 years; Mrs. Ruth R. Barton, 82 years; Lavina Watkinson, 79 years; Abel Watkinson, 79 years; William E. Watkinson, 77 years. Their aggregate age is 662 years, an average of 82 years. This happy band of brothers and sisters have now living 15 children, 35 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

All the sisters are members of the First Baptist Church, of Mount Holly, and Mrs. Groom, the eldest, has been a member of the Baptist denomination for 65 years. Their parents died at the age of 48 and 52 respectively. All were born at the homestead farm, near Mount Holly, which until recently was in the possession of the family, and had been for over 175 years.

A Queer Funeral.

Squire Hawley, of the village of Hatfield, near Doncaster, Eng., left the whole of his estate to his groom, on the condition that his funeral should be conducted in a certain way. He died on a Christmas day and was buried in his own garden in the center of the graves of his cattle which had died during the rinderpest. He was laid out in full hunting costume, including spurs and whip, and was carried from the house to the grave on a coffin board, where he was placed in a stone coffin, which, weighing more than a ton, had to be lowered by means of a crane. His pony was shot and buried at his feet in bridle and saddle, and his dog and an old fox were buried at his head.

Women Growing Taller.

Women seem to be on the increase, not numerically, but physically. They are all so tall that beside them many men seem pigmies. Many of the well-known beauties are tall. Among those of English birth there is the Duchess of Portland; she is nearly six feet high. Then there is Lady Wolverton, daughter of Georgina, Countess of Dudley. Both mother and daughter are but a hair's breadth beneath the six-foot measurement. Then there is the Duchess of Newcastle, Lady Francis Hope's (May Yohe's) sister-in-law; she is also a daughter of Anak. And the daughters of Lord Londesborough are "more than common tall."

Speaker Reed's Bright Daughter.

Kittie Reed, the Speaker's bright 19-year-old daughter, is becoming a great favorite in Washington society. She has the Reed drawl, and people like it. They think it piquant. Miss Reed is simple, sincere and without a shadow of affectation. She doesn't like society at all, but goes everywhere "for papa's sake."

TIGER AND ELEPHANT.

Recently Cruel Sport Practiced in a Region in India.

At Tymbud, India, the Mohammedan natives enjoy combats between wild beasts somewhat after the manner of the ancient Romans. A returned American traveler thus writes of a combat he witnessed between a tiger and an elephant. Trumpets sounded, he says, and a sign that everything was in readiness, and a cage containing a tiger was brought into the arena, which was an inclosure guarded on the outer side by bamboo railings. Eye never rested upon a more splendid animal. He leaped to the ground with a supple grace quite indescribable, and reviewed the assemblage with admiring eyes, himself the most admirable object in sight.

An immense elephant, more than ten feet high at the shoulders and of unusual length of body, was then goaded by spears and clubs to enter the place. He made directly for the tiger and attempted to kneel upon him, but the subtle beast moved away quickly and stood at bay. A large rocket was fired at the elephant, and struck him in the neck, causing him to bound forward with a lurch, and it seemed he would fall upon the tiger, but there was a flash of something in the air and the tiger had fallen upon him, striking the huge beast in the face with two cruelly pronged claws, sharper than pincers. The elephant bellowed with pain as the tiger released his hold and retreated to a distant corner, and the spectators yelled with delight. It gave promise of a brilliant combat.

Simultaneously rockets were fired into the two beasts which set them in terrible commotion, and they ran around the inclosure roaring and bellowing with fright. The elephant was turned squarely around by a second rocket, and was brought face to face with his adversary. He seized the hind legs of the tiger with his trunk and hurled the cat high into the air. Again he tried to trample upon the tiger, but the latter was too quick and instead gouged out the eyes of the great brute, which bellowed with pain. The elephant then rushed round the inclosure seeking in vain for his enemy and not finding it dashed against the bamboo railing, demolishing it and incidentally killing two persons and injuring others. Then the maddened animal escaped, but was pursued and killed. The tiger, too, escaped to the jungle.

Notwithstanding its tragic finale the combat was loudly extolled by the natives, who declared it one of the best they had ever enjoyed.

A SUMMER RESORT INCIDENT.

Things Are Not Always What They Seem.

They were spending the summer in the mountains, and men were few. The little stout, middle-aged man seemed to be the life of the hotel. He was everywhere, attending to everything. He had a smile and a joke for everybody, and had been particularly devoted to the young girl from Chicago.

"I hate gloomy men," she said. "I like to see men bright and jolly and cheerful, like you. I think a man's business creeps into his manner to a considerable extent, don't you?"

"Um, well, I don't know," he said. "It may, but you can't always tell."

"I can," she said cheerfully. "At least I can generally come pretty close to it. Now, you take that funeral, solemn-looking man that we see on the veranda every night. He looks and acts as if he had lost his last friend and never expected to have another. He is somber in his dressing, too. His manner shows how seriously he looks at life, and if an observing person can't tell exactly what his business is, she ought to be able to get somewhere near it, anyway."

"What should you think he was?"

"An undertaker or a tombstone manufacturer or a divorce lawyer, or possibly a heavy tragedian."

"Well, he isn't any one of them."

"Do you know him? What is he?" she asked eagerly.

"He is a professional humorist."

"Dear me, how surprising. Now, I should have thought that might have been your business, but certainly not his. What is your business?"

"Oh, I am an undertaker."

Spontaneous Fires.

Lampblack has been known to take fire spontaneously.

Oiled or greasy rags have been seen to blaze up in a few minutes after having been thrown on the floor.

Dried rubbish exposed to the heat of the sun's rays has been seen to catch fire under circumstances that rendered any other cause impossible.

The sun's rays focused through a window pane on a plank in the floor containing pine sap have been known to set it on fire.

Sawdust used for cleaning floors or absorbing spilled oil and varnish should be removed from the building.

Sawdust accumulations around journals of machinery are prolific sources of fires.

Matches in the pockets of cast-off clothing are dangerous.

Varnish and turpentine cans placed near the stove in cold weather are liable to explode and catch fire.

Car Conductors for Charity.

The women of Rome, Ga., hit upon a novel and very successful expedient of raising funds for a local church. They received the use of the cars of an electric railroad company for a day, and then upon the occasion of a Masonic celebration which attracted thousands of visitors they acted as conductors and raked in the nickels.

The woman's edition of a newspaper idea is spreading with a vengeance.

Locomotive engineers get from \$11 to \$45 a month in China. Firemen get from \$5 to \$8.

RUINED BY ACCIDENTS.

Many of Companies Suffer Severely Through Big Variations.

A very serious accident sometimes means the wreckage of the finances of a railroad company. When one reads of a "terrible railroad accident" on some railroad line, an accident entailing loss of life, and, perhaps, serious injury to property, the circumstance is lost sight of, that, after the doctors and nurses have begun their work of skill or philosophy, there come the lawyers whose clients are to be settled with either by cash compromise or as the result of a jury's decision, and, just as it is well known, are hardly ever partial to railroad companies when private individuals are suing for injuries sustained or for the loss of immediate relatives.

One of the most popular and successful railroads carrying passengers out of New York during the summer season went into the hands of a receiver a few years ago because there were pending against it damage suits to the amount of \$1,000,000 arising from an accident on Labor Day—an accident in which a number of people were killed. Not one of these suits has yet come to trial, but such is the closeness with which railroad earnings and expenses are computed that the net earnings for many years to come would be hopelessly engulfed if only a part of the suits came to trial, and if only a fraction of the damages claimed was recovered in court.

The amount of money paid in settlement of damage suits by American railroads cannot be computed with any positiveness, because it varies considerably from year to year, while the condition of the railroads transporting passengers has much to do with it. When roads are in good condition accidents involving loss of life or serious bodily injury are rare; when roads are in poor condition such accidents are frequent. The large systems of the country, such as the New York Central, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, the Illinois Central and the Southern Pacific, spend on an average in the settlement of damage suits about \$150,000 each, and the smaller railway companies bring up probably the total amount paid to about \$2,000,000 in all.

Although the American railroads carry collectively in a year 600,000,000 passengers, the number of fatal accidents averages but about 300, and of injuries to passengers about 3,000, or one killed for every 2,000,000 carried and one injured for every 250,000.

False Teeth in Her Heart.

The most remarkable museum in New York City is that located on the grounds of Bellevue Hospital. It abounds in anatomical curiosities, one of the most interesting being the preserved heart of a woman who died in Bellevue Hospital under very peculiar circumstances. The woman suffered from severe pains in the left side, and the physicians tried innumerable remedies without affording the patient any relief whatever. Day by day the patient's suffering increased, until finally she died. When a post mortem examination was held it was found that the woman had swallowed her false teeth, and the silver plate to which they were attached. They had gone from the oesophagus into the pericardium, and, breaking directly into the heart, had imbedded themselves in that organ, producing what the physicians termed "pericarditis," of which she died. The organ as preserved in the museum exhibits the silver plate with the teeth attached, half buried in the heart.

Indifferent to Smallpox.

While traveling in India, says a writer, my attendant came to my room one morning with my early coffee and toast.

"Master got medicine?" he asked.

"No," was the reply. "Why, Sammy?"

"My wife got smallpox, sahib."

He said it in a most cool, indifferent manner, as if the fact that his wife having the smallpox was the most commonplace thing in the world. That morning's lunch went to feed the hundreds of Bengal crows and kites that hover around the hotel. If a man never knew how to swear before going to India he will soon learn after a week's experience with Hindoo servants.

Trepanning Restores Speech.

The day of the great Johnstown flood, May 31, 1889, Horace Tetlow had his skull crushed by a falling timber. Since that time he has been a mute imbecile. He met with a slight accident recently and was taken to a hospital. The physician in charge made a thorough examination of the wound in his skull. Trepanning was decided on. The operation was successfully performed, a bone button, about the size of a half dollar, being removed. He talks now, but his mind is a blank as to the happenings during the last seven years.

Sousa's Income Has Grown.

A few years ago Sousa's entire income was the \$1,200 he received as manager of the United States Marine Band. Last year his royalties on his marches amounted to \$25,000. Mr. Sousa is a native of Washington, where he has lived most of his life, and he is 40 years of age. His father was a musician before him, and his first appearance in public as a performer was made when he was 10 years old.

Remedies for Burns.

The first thing to do when one's clothing catches fire is to smother the flames with a blanket, a coat, or anything made of wool. If a person is severely burned the clothing should be removed by cutting, great care being used not to tear off the skin. Dress the burn immediately with either carron oil, vaseline or olive oil, mixed with white of an egg. Old linen cloths saturated with any one of the above remedies must be applied directly to the burned surface.

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